



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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615 Chestnut Street

Suite 1250

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476

(215) 861-8200

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NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the filing of a three-count Indictment against John Benjamin Desper, charging him with using the Internet in February 2009 to attempt to persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor to engage in sexual activity. The indictment further alleges that, on or about February 16, 2009, Desper traveled from New Jersey to Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a minor, and that he possessed child pornography.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
John Benjamin Desper	Woolwich, New Jersey	40 years old

If convicted the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment, with a minimum mandatory term of 10 years, 5 years supervised release, a \$750,000 fine and a \$300 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Delaware County District Attorney's Office, the New Jersey State Police and the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rotella.